

17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Preparing for COVID-19**

As you will be aware, the situation with regards to COVID-19 is changing almost on a daily basis. I appreciate that this is of concern to many people and I wanted to assure you that everything is being done across our schools to ensure we are well-placed for whatever happens.

The safety and wellbeing of pupils and staff remains our highest priority and we continue to follow all relevant guidance and direction from government.

Our schools will remain open, wherever possible, until we are directed by government to do otherwise. If staff absences rise due to increased self-isolation, we may need to follow different procedures – as, for example we do on ‘snow days’ – but our intention is to keep our schools open so that children can continue learning and parents can continue working.

Whilst all our schools remain open as normal at present, we are also finalising our planning for what we will put in place if they do need to close temporarily. As a group of independent schools we are able to develop, access and share a wide range of bespoke curriculum materials and online lessons that most schools in the country are unable to provide. These will be made available to our pupils so that each is able to continue their learning and, where relevant, their preparation for external exams. Staff at each of our schools will continue to be in close contact both with pupils and parents so that you continue to receive all the information you need to assist them in studying from home.

We are also cognisant that some pupils will find the ongoing situation alarming and worrying so staff will likewise be continuing to offer pastoral support and will be looking out for children who appear to find any changes particularly challenging.

These are unprecedented times and I am grateful for the hard work and expertise of the leadership teams and staff across each of our schools. They have the pupils’ best interests at heart and will be doing everything they can – in whatever circumstances we are in – to ensure a continuity and consistency in education for your child.

We talk a great deal about the importance of a strong partnership between schools and parents; at times like these, this really comes to the fore. Thank you for your support and assistance in the weeks ahead.

Yours sincerely



Sir Jon Coles  
Chief Executive

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